

# ALLIGATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL

JANUARY 15, 2019

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES (LDWF)  
HEADQUARTERS IN BATON ROUGE

## ATTENDANCE

### **Council Members Present**

Randy Moertle  
Vic Blanchard  
John Currier  
Barry Wall  
Gerald Savoie  
Craig Sagrera  
Mike Bengé

### **Council Members Absent**

Ronald Guy  
Al Marmande

### **LDWF Present**

Jack Montoucet  
Buddy Baker  
Tanya Sturman  
Jeb Linscombe  
Jason Waller  
Angela Guidry  
Ruth Elsey  
Amity Bass  
Eric Ledet  
Mike Dupuis  
Cole Garrett

### **Others Present**

Peter Sykes- Pinnacle Alligator Farms  
Noel Kinler- Unassociated  
Nathan Wall- Walls Gator Farm  
Matt Wall- Walls Gator Farm  
Sara Eldridge- Walls Gator Farm  
Amanda Dillard- Walls Gator Farm  
Serge Castagne- Compagnie des Cuirs Précieux (CCP)  
Jeff Donald- Donald Farms  
Jim Dozier- Kering Group  
Viscusi Gianmarco- Kering Group

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS AAC MEETING

*Motion made by Gerald Savoie to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2018 AAC meeting. John Currier seconded. Motion carried.*

## ALLIGATOR BUDGET INCREASE

Amity Bass announced that the \$150,000 increase in the council budget has been approved.

## ADVOCACY AND CONSULTING UPDATE

Buddy Baker introduced Matt Gray, the primary consultant at Advocacy and Consulting. Matt Gray presented and reviewed a fact sheet, entitled Alligator Products: Commercial Availability. The fact sheet included a brief summary of California Penal Code Section 653o, the history, the problem, and the solution. The fact sheet also included a mock-up of the proposed amendment. There is a deadline of February 22, 2019 to introduce new legislation amending this penal code. The amendment would then have until about the third week of April to make it through the final policy committee.

Mr. Gray summarized the political atmosphere in California. He explained his strategy for speaking with various groups about this issue. He speaks to different legislators using different strategies. Some legislators respond to the medical benefits of studying alligators, and others respond to the technology involved in the medical study. He also educates legislators and special interest group on the economic benefits of the alligator industry. He is able to approach the issue from a lot of different perspectives. Mr. Gray has spoken to animal advocacy groups about the sustainable use element of the alligator's survival story, and he makes the case that the proposed legislation is pro-animal.

Mr. Gray entertained a question and answer period with the audience.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

*Motion made by Mike Benge to adjourn. Barry Wall seconded. Motion carried.*